

Message Text

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SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: NEW REFINERY FOR GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

REF: NASSAU A-150 JULY 17, 1973

1. THE BAHAMIAN CABINET HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OIL REFINERY TO BE LOCATED ON GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND OUTSIDE THE FREEPORT AREA. THE PROPOSED REFINERY WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 400,000 BBL-A-DAY.

2. THE DETAILS ON THE NEW REFINERY ARE STILL NOT AVAILABLE. MR. V.C. GEORGESCU OF ATLANTIC TERMINAL AND TANKER SERVICES CO. OF LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE PROJECT. ANOTHER COMPANY, KARDAR CANADIAN OILS LTD. IS INVOLVED THOUGH THE EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT IS APPARENTLY STILL UP IN THE AIR. AS REPORTED IN REFERENCED AIRGRAM, KARDAR CANADIAN WAS ORIGINALLY LINKED WITH THYSEN STAHL-UNION, A GERMAN FIRM, IN A PLAN TO BUILD A REFINERY. WHETHER OR NOT THYSEN IS STILL INVOLVED REMAINS UNCLEAR. DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. SINCE INFORMATION ON THE CABINET APPROVAL IS NOT PUBLIC, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THIS REPORT NOT BE PUBLISHED BUT SEES NO OBJECTION TO MAKING IT AVAILABLE DIRECTLY TO INTERESTED AMERICAN FIRMS. SPIERS

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